

The 128th annual meeting of the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association convened at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday March 15, 1997 at the Student Center of Otero Junior College in La Junta, Colorado with President David Mendenhall presiding.

Jim Schleining gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Southeast Junior Cattlemen's Association. Bill Harper, President of the La Junta Chamber of Commerce, then welcomed our group to La Junta.

The 1997 Breeding Beef Awards were then presented by Vice President Milton Rink to: Chris Knapp - Otero County, J.D. McEwen - Kiowa County, Mick Mitchell - Bent County, Nathan May - Prowers County, and Brad Cook - Baca County.

Marilyn Weber reported for the American National Cattlegirls on how they are working on a Task Force with the Cattlemen to define the Cattlegirls' role in the new organization but still remain a separate association. Pricilla Sharp, from the Colorado Cattlegirls, stressed the importance of attending the CCA Convention. Kaye Kasza, Southeast Colorado Cattlegirls, gave the group an overview of that organizations activities throughout the past year.

Susie Brock, 1996 Southeast Colorado Cattlegirl of the Year, then presented the 1997 Southeast Colorado Cattlegirl of the Year Award to Jo Ann McEndree.

Doris Morgan reported from U.S. Senator Wayne Allard's office. Senator Allard was instrumental in getting the BLM to withdraw their Law Enforcement Proposal that would have went beyond their stated purpose and jurisdiction. Upcoming issues that we need to watch for include: confirmation of the new CIA head, the Chemical Weapons Convention - may yield a treaty that will affect private industry because of pesticide restrictions, User Fees for meat inspection, a federally mandated program, and Electric deregulation.

Doyle Davidson of the Colorado Boys Ranch gave an overview of the 2 ranches that have been donated to the Boys Ranch and the 4 steers to be used as 4-H projects this next year. Also, the ranch needs help in getting funding from the state legislature. Mr. Davidson stated that 85% of the boys who leave the ranch are successful in life but it seems the state would rather build prisons than fund a successful program like the Boys Ranch.

CCA representatives present for the meeting included: Kirk Hanna - President Elect, Vernon Sharp - 2nd Vice President, Joe Kasza - Past President, and David Mendenhall and Bill Gray - Southeast Quarter Reps. Mr. Hanna gave a short report from the NCBA convention and stated that several of the resolutions adopted were from the Colorado delegation.

Mr. Sharp reported that the CCA resolutions committee will meet April 24 and that CCA is seeking input from the membership on a position to the GOCO bill. Mr. Gray reported that the Olney/Boone CRP Grazing Trial is seeking Federal money for fencing and water improvements on the property involved in the test. Joe Kasza made a motion that Bent-Prowers oppose providing any Federal money for the fencing of the CRP plots in the study. Seconded by Jim Schleining. Motion passed.

Mr. Kasza then asked Mr. Hanna why only the NCBA Board voted on the name for the association instead of having a grass roots vote on all members. Discussion was lively and animated but no answers were provided.

Dick Tanner of the Colorado Brand Board reported that at the present time the board is very financially sound. A third party revue found that to be even more sound the board should increase the inspection fees for horses, this would require legislation. As for the proposals on the table to change the way the brand law is administered, there was agreement with all parties involved until the Colorado Cattle Feeders delegation changed their mind to not back the proposal. At the present time, the Brand Board is seeking a proposal from CCA to compare with the new CCFA proposal. They will then come up with their own proposal, combining the previous two when possible, to submit to the legislature.

Since no representative from the State Land Board was present, Corwin Brown was asked to speak on the State Lands proposal, amendment 16 and SB49. Mr. Brown stated that up to this point the Schools have won because the judge has stayed that portion of Amendment 16 that took the liability away from the board members for the decisions they make. Now, the board members are personally liable for their decisions as State Land Board members.

He further stated that there is no middle ground on this issue, you are either for or against.

Jim Schrievogal, DOW officer, reported that they have established 3 "Antelope conflict areas" in our area. Members to the board were appointed by the county commissioners in the participating counties with the idea of getting landowners and the division working together on a common mission. Mr. Schrievogal also reported that the enabling legislation for Amendment 14 allows 30 concurrent days for one permit on a specific parcel of land. The law is administered by the Dept. of Ag but the DOW issues the permits. Kimi Lewis offered a rebuttal to the DOW report and then presented a new licensing proposal (see resolution #4).

Being no further reports to be given, President David Mendenhall called the business meeting to order.

Steve Ptolemy made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting. Seconded by John Smartt. Motion Passed.

As there was no old business to act on, Milton Rink gave the Audit Committee Report. Joe Kasza questioned why the association lost money last year. Reasons given included a decrease of approximately 100 members and the payment of 2 years dues to CCA. Mr. Rink made a motion that the audit report be accepted. Seconded by Steve Ptolemy. Motion passed with a dissenting vote by Joe Kasza. Mr. Rink then moved that the Banking Summary Report be accepted as presented. Seconded by Bill Gray. Motion Passed. Finally, the Budget for 1997 was presented and Mr. Rink moved for acceptance. Seconded by Steve McEndree. Motion Passed.

Steve McEndree gave the Bent-Prowers Endowment Trust Report and move for its acceptance. Seconded by Steve Ptolemy. Motion Passed.

Bruce Fickenscher, Resolution Committee Chairman, submitted the resolutions to the meeting. Titles were as follows:

1. Redirection of GOCO funds - Passed
2. Retail Electric Industry Restructuring - Passed
3. Redirection of the Colorado State Fair - Passed
4. Big game licensing for Private landowners - Passed
5. Memorial to deceased members - Passed

Hans Hasser, Nominating Committee Chairman, then presented the list of officers and directors nominated for the 1997 Board of Directors. They were as follows:

President - Milton Rink

1st Vice President - Bruce Fickenscher

2nd Vice President - Bill Gray

Secretary/Treasurer - Jo Ann McEndree

Past Presidents - David Mendenhall, Hans Hasser, & Steve Ptolemy

Prowers County Directors - Dale Seufer, Kerry Hartshorn, Marilyn Pettinger, & Billy Downen

Bent County Directors - Joe Kasza, John Smartt, Dave Miller, & Dave Turner

Baca County Directors - Steve McEndree, Randy Shaw, & Keith Van Campen

Kiowa County Directors - Greg Shalberg, Dale Butler, & John Negley

Otero County Directors - Pat Karney, Walter Myers, Ross Nielsen, & Karren "Sparky" Turner

John Smartt moved that nomination cease and that the officers and directors be elected as presented. Seconded by Jim Schleining.
Motion Passed

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Fickenscher
Bruce Fickenscher, Sec.

BENT-PROWERS RESOLUTION #1

Whereas: Education is of vital concern to the members of this association and this state,

and Whereas: The need for financial help for schools to improve their facilities is great.

Therefore be it resolved: the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association support the legislative resolution to redirect GOCO funds for capital construction projects to benefit education,

Be it further resolved: that CCA be encouraged to adopt this position as its permanent policy.

BENT-PROWERS RESOLUTION #2

The Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association is advised that several legislative proposals have been introduced at both the federal and state level which mandate the restructuring of the retail electric industry in Colorado. Frequently referred to as "retail wheeling" or "deregulation", these proposals dictate to consumer-owned utilities such as rural cooperatives and municipal electric utilities how the provision of electric service will occur in the future, irrespective of the wishes of the consumer-owners of these utilities who serve in rural areas such as the Southeast Colorado Counties.

The Association is greatly concerned that the impacts of retail wheeling-deregulation on rural areas of the state will be largely negative, similar to the adverse impacts experienced by rural areas through airline, railroad, trucking, and telephone deregulation. At the very least, the likely impacts of retail wheeling-deregulation on rural areas should be thoroughly and objectively studied by our policy-makers, with maximum opportunity for public input, before any radical changes are made in Colorado's electric industry structure.

The Association is also concerned the proposals to deregulate the electric industry in Colorado will have adverse cost shifting impacts on small use consumers at the expense of favored large volume consumers located on urban areas of the state. We are also vitally interested in making sure none of these proposals threaten the quality and reliability of electric service currently provided in Colorado.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association as follows:

1. We oppose any federal or state legislation mandating the restructuring of the electric industry in Colorado.
2. We support an objective evaluation of the performance of Colorado's existing retail electric industry structure, led by a panel of parties representing the diverse interests of the participants in this industry, including consumers and representatives from rural areas of the state. We further support an evaluation process which provides broad opportunities for public input and public meetings in various locations throughout the state before the final evaluation report is submitted to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

1. This resolution be forwarded to the Colorado Cattlemen's Association with a recommendation that CCA adopt a similar resolution as set forth herein.

BENT-PROWERS RESOLUTION #3:

The Colorado State Fair was founded with the intent to support and promote the Colorado Agricultural industry.

As Colorado grows and changes it is more important than ever that the agricultural industry is recognized as playing a vital role in Colorado's quality of life and economy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Colorado State Fair must rededicate itself to promoting agriculture to Colorado citizens and our changing culture.
2. The Colorado State Fair must place a high priority on improved communication and cooperation with producer groups with the intent of exploring ways to promote Colorado agriculture.

BENT-PROWERS RESOLUTION #4:

Be it resolved that the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association support the Southeastern Colorado private landowners in their efforts to obtain compensation through guaranteed big game licensing to private land owners.

This proposal will give private property owners the incentive to be good stewards of wild animal populations and natural habitats. It will also create a better working relationship and bring about a positive change, correcting the anti-competitiveness private land owners are experiencing under the present Division of Wildlife rules and regulations.

BENT-PROWERS RESOLUTION #5:

WHEREAS: Since our last annual meeting, many of our beloved and valued member passed to their reward. We who remain, have enjoyed and benefitted from their association with us and we are saddened by their absence.

AND WHEREAS: We share in the sorrow of their families and loved ones and to their memory we pledge to support the principles which these great men and women have firmly instilled in our association.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: We, the members of the Bent-Prowers Cattle and Horse Growers Association, now stand to take a moment to memorialize our deceased members.